



# The AllWays travellers bulletin

Providing independent travellers with an equally independent view of the world

Issue No 2 : April 2012

[www.allwaystraveller.com](http://www.allwaystraveller.com)

Welcome to the April issue of the *AllWays travellers bulletin*.

Many thanks for all your kind words of support following our March launch issue.

Every month the bulletin will provide independent travellers with key information in a no-frills format.

In doing so, we will look to provide key information in a no-frills format, similar to that we provide for the 8,000 plus professional travel journalists in the International Travel Writers Alliance, which is the world's largest association of professional travel journalists.

I hope you will find the bulletin of interest and, if so, please ask your family, friends and colleagues to email me so I can add them to the distribution list.

And please visit us online at :

[www.allwaystraveller.com](http://www.allwaystraveller.com)

You can then enjoy the features there at any time.

## Ashley Gibbins

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AllWays traveller to ....

## Florida

Florida is one of the world's most popular destinations.

While this is in no small measure to Walt Disney World, and the other theme parks of Orlando, there is so much more to enjoy in the 'Sunshine' state.

This first of a two-part feature on Florida gives an idea of what to do and see in Florida,



### Walt Disney World

**Walt Disney World Resort (WDW), or Disney World to the many millions who have been there, is the world's most-visited entertainment resort.**

It covers 30,000 plus acres of south west Florida at Lake Buena Vista, some 20 miles from Orlando.

Visit this world and you will find four major theme parks, two themed water parks, a retail and night time entertainment 'district' and 23 on-site themed resort hotels.

Beyond Disney, other theme parks and themed entertainment has flourished making Orlando, the theme park capital of the world, which attracts millions of thrill seekers, of all ages and from all corners of the world.

Walt Disney deserves due credit for this and his world deserves to be top of the list when planning a visit.

To read this and other features visit :

[www.allwaystraveller.com](http://www.allwaystraveller.com)

[www.disneyworld.disney.go.com](http://www.disneyworld.disney.go.com)



To read this and other features visit : [www.allwaystraveller.com](http://www.allwaystraveller.com)

## Tallahassee

**Tallahassee, is in the Red Hills region of the Florida Panhandle, some 25 miles from the Gulf of Mexico and is surrounded by genuine natural beauty.**

Being Florida, there is a climate that allows year-round enjoyment of the area's outdoor pursuits.

As Florida State Capital, Tallahassee also enjoys a political edge and historic ambiance supported by a fine cultural offering and cosmopolitan infrastructure.

The Florida State and Florida A&M Universities are both based here and these infuse the city with the youthful vibrancy of a college town.

While Florida is one of the world's major tourist hot spots, Tallahassee is yet to be recognised as a travel destination in its own right

A treat at the top of the state awaits.

[www.visittallahassee.com](http://www.visittallahassee.com)



To read this and other features visit : [www.allwaystraveller.com](http://www.allwaystraveller.com)

## Fort Myers

**Fort Myers, which is located between Naples and Sarasota on Florida's Gulf Coast, got its name from the 1850s wooden fort named in of honour one Col Abraham C Myers.**

The fort was built to garrison the troops sent to subdue the native Seminole Indians who were not best pleased with the settlers moving onto their lands.

The city of Fort Myers grew up around the fort and flourished as a cattle station, port and rail terminal long after the fort itself was decommissioned.

The downtown regeneration and cultural renaissance of Fort Myers, in recent years has been startling. And equally as remarkable is the infusion of artistic and cultural activities and initiatives from the citizens.

It all makes Fort Myers a very rewarding city break in its own right as well as a base to tour the areas beaches.

[www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com](http://www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com)



To read this and other features visit : [www.allwaystraveller.com](http://www.allwaystraveller.com)

## The Beaches of Fort Myers

**Fort Myers Beach is located along a thin strip of barrier island on the Gulf of Mexico, in South West Florida.**

It is a real tourist trap, attracting those families and young people searching for sun, sea, sand and the 'Coney Island' style excitement of the Times Square dining and entertainment district.

And even while the focus is invariably on the fun side of a sunshine holiday, those looking for something a little more exclusive can take the short drive to Lovers Key state park, where a tractor-pulled tram runs through a mangrove forest to one of Florida's most pristine stretches of sand.

Alternatively a short trip over the causeway and one is on the barrier islands of Sanibel and Captiva or, for a cultural experience, head to downtown Fort Myers, which has enjoyed a remarkable artistic renaissance in recent years.

[www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com](http://www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com)

## AllWays online

AllWays online is an archive of the finest travel features from the professional travel journalists in the International Travel Writers Alliance.

Hers is just a small selection. Others can be found at : [www.allwaystraveller.com](http://www.allwaystraveller.com)

### Upstate New York

**New York City and Upstate New York are a couple of hundred miles and light years apart writes Roger St. Pierre.**



The Big Apple is all rush and bustle while out in the country the pace is altogether less hurried and frenetic.

If New Yorkers live life in the fast lane, their country cousins live it on the hard shoulder. It's friendly and safe and in many communities people never bother to lock their doors.

It wasn't that way for runaway slaves escaping from the sugarcane and cotton fields of the Deep South in the turbulent time just before the outbreak of the bloody American Civil War.

New York State had abolished slavery in 1827 but there were notorious provisions that entitled Southern slave owners to send bounty hunters into the state to retrieve their 'property' and the state tacitly cooperated with such activities.

And, if they could not find the fugitive they were looking for they would often seize someone else instead, be it a slave or a free black.

Read Rogers 's feature at : [www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao\\_an\\_USA\\_NewYork.html](http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_an_USA_NewYork.html)

### Panda Porn and Panda Poop in Chengdu, China

**Sexercise for pandas gets them in the mood writes Dan Christopher**

Pity the poor pandas. As one of the most beloved animals on planet earth, the cute and cuddly creatures wearing black patches around their eyes are also under intense scrutiny as an endangered species.

So not only is the panda sex life an open book, now it seems, so is Panda poop. By tea drinkers.

Read Dan's feature at : [www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao\\_asia\\_china\\_pandas.html](http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_asia_china_pandas.html)

### A trip through Georgia

Georgia is a small country nestled between Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia Frederic Mouren de Poligny writes *Frederic Mouren de Poligny*.

Kept for a long time under the Russian umbrella, Georgia stands up now as a little stunning country thinking of being one day fully part of European Community

Read Frederic's feature at : [www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao\\_eur\\_Georgia.html](http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_eur_Georgia.html)

### Enduring Crete

**A mere 45 million olive trees, terrain dominated by craggy mountains and shorelines with some truly lovely beaches writes Mark Nicholls.**

Then there is a beautiful Mediterranean climate and a history that stretches back across the millennia to the ancient Minoan civilization and beyond, and you have something nearing perfection.

Combine that landscape with delightful tavernas arcing around quiet coves and serving traditional healthy cuisine.

Yes, this is Crete and still as I fondly remember it.

Read Mark's feature at : [www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao\\_eur\\_Crete.html](http://www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_eur_Crete.html)

## AllWays in the news



### Airport Lounges

**We all know that our time at the airport is, by far, the worst thing about flying.**

The time it takes to get through security, the panic at the thought of checking in late and missing the flight and then the wait in crowded departure areas.

To avoid the stress and pressure of flying, get to the airport three hours earlier than necessary, check in and clear security in a leisurely fashion and then head to one of the airport lounges to relax or work in style.

This costs a little more but, with all the lounges offer to make their guests comfortable, it is money well spent.

Passengers flying out of London Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted should opt for the premium lounges operated by *No.1 Traveller*.

[www.No1Traveller.com](http://www.No1Traveller.com)

### The Flagler Museum, Palm beach, Florida

When it was completed in 1902, the New York Herald proclaimed that Whitehall, Henry Flagler's Gilded Age estate in Palm Beach, was "more wonderful than any palace in Europe, grander and more magnificent than any other private dwelling in the world."

Today, Whitehall is a National Historic Landmark and is open to the public as the Flagler Museum, featuring guided tours, changing exhibits, and special programs.

[www.flaglERMuseum.us](http://www.flaglERMuseum.us)

### Wasatch Powderbird Guides

Wasatch Powderbird Guides, a heli skiing and snowboard operation based out of the Wasatch Mountain Range in Utah, provides individuals and private groups the powder skiing experience.

With two convenient bases of operations (Snowbird Ski Resort & Canyons Resort in Park City).

Guests can build the ski vacation of their dreams, complete with 4 and 5 star lodging, 5 ski resorts in the immediate vicinity, world-class restaurants, and countless complementary activities.

[www.powderbird.com](http://www.powderbird.com)

### Elite Tours International

Elite Tours International is a tour operator for the Uzbek tourism market, and is working actively in promoting tourism in Uzbekistan.

[www.elitetours.uz](http://www.elitetours.uz)

### Leisure Island Houseboat Rentals

Leisure Island Houseboat Rentals is a family owned and operated houseboat rental company located on Lake Temagami in Northern Ontario, Canada.

Its houseboats provide a unique opportunity for fishing, relaxation and adventure as you explore our beautiful area.

[www.leisureislandhouseboatrentals.com](http://www.leisureislandhouseboatrentals.com)

### Responsibletravel.com

responsibletravel.com is the world's leading company for responsible holidays.

In 2011 the company celebrated its 10th birthday and has sold \$100million worth of holidays since it launched.

The site works with over 1,000 tourism suppliers to help market over 4,000 richer, deeper and more locally distinctive travel experiences that are better for destinations and local communities.

[www.responsibletravel.com](http://www.responsibletravel.com)

### Inbed.me

Inbed.me is a social booking site for hostels, beds and couches.

The company strongly believes that travel is not about the places you visit but about the people you meet along the way.

[www.inbed.me](http://www.inbed.me)

## FloridaVacationAuction.com



FloridaVacationAuction.com is the official auction partner of VISIT FLORIDA, which offers consumers the opportunity to bid on Florida vacations including hotels, resorts, vacation homes and attractions.

The site offers savings of as much as 80% off rack rate.

**[www.FloridaVacationAuction.com](http://www.FloridaVacationAuction.com)**

## The UK's first Dark Sky Park at Galloway Forest Park in Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland

VisitScotland and the Forestry Commission Scotland have created a free pocket visitor guide to the UK's first Dark Sky Park at Galloway Forest Park in Dumfries & Galloway.

The guide provides an introduction to stargazing with plenty of hints and tips on how to get the most out of the experience as well as the variety of things to see and do in Dumfries & Galloway.

**[www.visitscotland.com/surprise](http://www.visitscotland.com/surprise)**.

## Castles & Abbey of Ireland

Dooley Vacations is now offering a "Castles & Abbey of Ireland" vacation package for summer travel.

The highlights of this trip include staying in four- and five-star castle accommodations where guests are promised to be treated like royalty!

Add a 7th night from \$99 per person: Spend an extra night at Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel Dublin, plus extended car rental for only \$99 per person.

**[www.dooleyvacations.com/vacations/castles-abbey-irl](http://www.dooleyvacations.com/vacations/castles-abbey-irl)**

## The Fox Cities, Wisconsin (USA)

The Fox Cities offer Wisconsin's best shopping getaway. Come for a weekend of shopping, some family fun or a relaxing urban retreat.

Enjoy the culture, dining and nightlife in Appleton, the historic charm of Neenah, and the riches of our 18 communities along the shores of Lake Winnebago and the Fox River.

**[www.foxcities.org](http://www.foxcities.org)**

## Exploratorium (USA)

The Exploratorium is a museum of science, art, and human perception located in San Francisco, California.

The Exploratorium believes that following your curiosity and asking questions leads to amazing moments of discovery, learning, and awareness, and can increase confidence in your ability to understand how the world works.

**[www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu)**

## Luxury Backpackers

Travel guide publishers Luxury Backpackers have published Family Adventures in Style. The company will be happy to provide review copies to Alliance members.

**[www.luxurybackpackers.com](http://www.luxurybackpackers.com)**.

## Guimarães, Portugal

Guimarães in the north of Portugal has been named as Europe's Capital of Culture for 2012.

The city will host a variety of events and attractions focusing on music, cinema, photography, fine arts, architecture, literature, thought, theatre, dance, street art and more. Over the course of the year, the city will be the promoter of Europe's cultural diversity, revealing Portuguese arts and culture as well as welcoming those from other countries.

**[www.guimaraes2012.pt/](http://www.guimaraes2012.pt/) and [www.visitportugal.com](http://www.visitportugal.com)**

## TC Giving

ITC Giving offers a range of short-term, well-structured volunteer travel experiences in exceptional destinations.

As part of their luxury holiday, clients will engage in the local community and witness first-hand the outstanding work carried out by local heroes. ITC Giving offers a much broader context of travel to individuals, families and small groups.

**[www.itcclassics.co.uk/itcgiving](http://www.itcclassics.co.uk/itcgiving)**

## Titanic, New England

Titanic - 12,450 Feet Below opens at the Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Connecticut, on 12 April 2012.

It commemorates the 100th anniversary of the liner's maiden voyage and tragic sinking. Mystic Aquarium is two hours southwest of Boston.

**[www.mysticaquarium.org](http://www.mysticaquarium.org), [www.mystic.org](http://www.mystic.org) and [www.discovernewengland.co.uk](http://www.discovernewengland.co.uk)**

## A place to stay

### The Mandeville, London

**To get the best from a London city break, one should look to be based in the heart of the action.**

The 4-star Mandeville Hotel is a city centre London hotel located close to Selfridges just off Wigmore Street in the Mayfair - Marylebone area of central London.

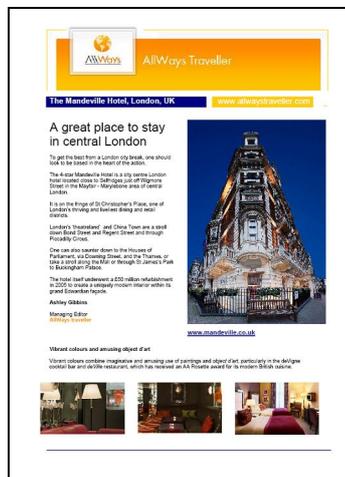
It is on the fringe of St Christopher's Place, one of London's thriving and liveliest dining and retail districts.

London's 'theatreland' and China Town are a stroll down Bond Street and Regent Street and through Piccadilly Circus.

One can also saunter down to the Houses of Parliament, via Downing Street, and the Thames, or take a stroll along the Mall or through St James's Park to Buckingham Palace.

The hotel itself underwent a £50 million refurbishment in 2005 to create a uniquely modern interior within its grand Edwardian façade.

**[www.mandeville.co.uk](http://www.mandeville.co.uk)**



To download this feature click :

<http://www.allwaystraveller.com/alerts/Allways%20alert%20Mandeville%20London%20new%20version.pdf>

### Windjammer Landing, St Lucia



**Windjammer Landing, the luxury villa beach resort on St Lucia is offering a 20% saving on its new Gold Medal Escape summer package to get holiday makers to choose this tropical island.**

The all-inclusive package provides guests with a Caribbean cocktail upon arrival and all meals and beverages and a wide range of onsite watersports activities during their stay.

For those who prefer relaxing in style in the sun Windjammer Landing has the beach on its doorstep with a beachfront jacuzzi and six swimming pools within the resort complex.

Windjammer Landing's Gold Medal package starts at US \$435 per night for two people in an Ocean View room. Bookings can be made from 9 April 2012 with travel good until 20 December 2012.

**[www.windjammer-landing.com](http://www.windjammer-landing.com)**

### Dusit Thani Dubai (United Arab Emirates)

Dusit Thani Dubai is an iconic five-star hotel that brings the essence and beauty of Thai culture to the heart of Dubai.

Located on Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai's main artery, the hotel is a 15-minute drive from Dubai International Airport

**[www.dusit.com](http://www.dusit.com)**

It is also conveniently close to the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Center, Dubai International Financial Center, Burj Khalifa, Dubai Mall, Jumeirah Beach, and many other famous attractions.

### The YMCA of the Rockies, USA

The YMCA of the Rockies has two year-round family vacation and conference centres, both located in the heart of Colorado's Rocky Mountains.

Estes Park Center close to the Rocky Mountain National Park and Snow Mountain Ranch. Camp Chief Ouray is a traditional summer overnight camp for children ages 7-17.

**[www.ymcarockies.org](http://www.ymcarockies.org)**

## Camp Denali & North Face Lodge, Alaska



The family-owned Camp Denali & North Face Lodge are the only accommodations in Denali National Park with views of North America's highest peak, Mt. McKinley.

Located in the geographic centre of the park, Camp Denali & North Face Lodge offer in-depth experiences for active travellers.

[www.campdenali.com](http://www.campdenali.com)

## Zambezi River lodge (Zambia)

The first Zambezi River lodge on the Zambian side of Victoria Falls, Tongabezi is privately owned and run, with the emphasis on exclusivity and romance, enhanced by the warmth of Zambian hospitality.

[www.tongabezi.com](http://www.tongabezi.com)

Each house and cottage at Tongabezi has its own personal valet and the Tongabezi vision is legendary.

## Park Hyatt Saigon, Vietnam

Park Hyatt Saigon is a luxury hotel, located in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City.

The residential feel of the hotel is enhanced with the feature of 244 wooden-floor guestrooms, white marble baths with rain shower, sumptuous beds with feather duvets and classic ceiling fans.

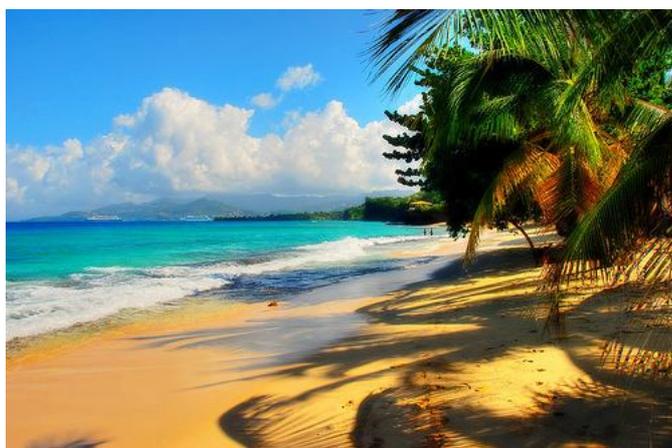
[www.saigon.park.hyatt.com](http://www.saigon.park.hyatt.com)

The hotel plays host to Square One, award winning designer restaurant serving authentic Vietnamese seafood and western grill.

The Xuan Spa pampers your sybaritic side with luxurious treatments, while 2 Lam Son bar is your stylish introduction to the city's nightlife.

## AllWays more things to take in

### Grenada



Grenada, the spice island of the Caribbean, is known for its warm welcome to travellers.

Visitors to the island can get active in the rainforest, trek around its lakes, snorkel and dive some of the most intriguing life size statues and wrecks in the region.

Trips are also available to the spice plantations and historic rum factories.

Grenada's hotels are almost all owner managed and boutique in style, and to make sure the authentic experiences does not change no building can be taller than a palm tree.

[www.grenadagrenadines.com](http://www.grenadagrenadines.com)

### The city of Jelenia Góra, Poland

The city of Jelenia Góra situated in Karkonosze (Giant Mountains) is called to most picturesque city in Poland - situated in a mountain valley.

[www.jeleniagora.pl](http://www.jeleniagora.pl)

It offers tourists skiing, mountain biking, nordic walking, paragliding and climbing. The oldest Polish spa (Uzdrowisko Cieplice) founded in 1281 is one of the city's districts.

### **Tatton Park (UK)**

Tatton Park is a stunning historic estate in Cheshire, with 2000 acres of parkland and four attractions to visit.

Deer have been present since the 13th century and the attract a variety of birds and wildlife.

The Neo-Classical Mansion features art and antiques from the Egerton family collections, and the 50 acres of Gardens with designs dating from 250 years ago, providing year-round colour.

**[www.tattonpark.org.uk](http://www.tattonpark.org.uk)**

### **Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens (Florida)**

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens has been a center for Japanese arts and culture in South Florida since its opening in 1977.

**[www.morikami.org](http://www.morikami.org)**

### **Banff, Lake Louise and Banff National Park (Canada)**

Adventure is calling you to Banff, Lake Louise and Banff National Park! As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Banff offers rugged beauty, unspoiled landscapes, and pristine mountain ranges.

**[www.banfflakelouise.com](http://www.banfflakelouise.com)**

### **Utah Valley (Provo, Utah)**

Utah Valley (Provo, Utah) is home to Robert Redford's Sundance Resort, BYU, Thanksgiving Point, mountain recreation and more.

**[www.UtahValley.com](http://www.UtahValley.com)**

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**[www.banfflakelouise.com](http://www.banfflakelouise.com)**

### **The Mob Museum, Las Vegas**

The National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement or the Mob Museum has opened in Las Vegas.

An interactive museum it looks to present an authentic view of organised crime's impact on Las Vegas' history.

**[www.visitlasvegas.com](http://www.visitlasvegas.com)**

The Gardens showcase different areas such as the Topiary, Rose Garden, Walled Kitchen Garden and the Japanese Garden which is considered one of the best in Europe.

There is also a working historic Farm and Tudor Old Hall to visit.

The Morikami invites guests to discover South Florida's heritage and its connection with Japan, explore a series of six diverse gardens inspired by a different historical period and style of Japanese gardening.

Experience an unrivaled alpine escape at The World's Finest National Park". You can also drink in nature's wonder at Lake Louise – one of the Canadian Rockies' most beloved destinations, with turquoise waters sparkling underneath the towering Victoria Glacier.

The Utah Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau provides information on Utah County and its venues, lodging and dining.

This is one of the Canadian Rockies' most beloved destinations, with turquoise waters sparkling underneath the towering Victoria Glacier.

The museum will be located in the heart of Downtown's urban core and housed in the former federal courthouse and United States Post Office, which was completed in 1933 as the city's first federal building.

## Tips from our travel journalists

New research from British Airways reveals that nine out of ten holiday-makers don't use up to 30 per cent of the items they take on holiday.

We asked some of our travel journalists what they always take :

**Kathy Sterndahl** says :

I pack my clothes and other items in the zippered plastic bags that sheets come in - one bag for each type of item. They keep everything so neat and wrinkle-free it is amazing! And you can easily see through them to know exactly what is inside.

**Kimbel Westerson** says :

I pack underwear/bras that dry quickly, no padded t-shirt bras. I don't hesitate to donate things that have proved superfluous along the way. Bring spare converter plugs.

**Wendy Liscia** says :

Maybe travellers would like to link to a charity I follow [www.stuffyourrucksack.com/index.php](http://www.stuffyourrucksack.com/index.php) They ask that if you have any room in your luggage take some things along that will benefit local charities. It's much more rewarding than taking another pair of shoes.

**Matt Morris** says :

Ciprofloxacin. It's the best antibiotic for wiping out nasty stomach illnesses that your immune system takes ages to shift. I wish I'd had some in El Nido last year. Shigella ruined my holiday.

**Kerry McKinnon Hansen** says :

Yes, Cipro is a must! When packing, I stick to a general colour scheme when choosing clothes; that way I can mix and match things more easily. It also allows you to pack less jewelry and fewer shoes.

One item I'm always sure to pack is a big sarong - it has so many uses: a blanket for chilly flights, beach cover-up, picnic blanket, wrap around fragile items in luggage, hang it over an uncurtained window for added privacy, wrap it around a bed pillow if you're unsure of the pillowcase. It's come in handy for me many times.

**Kate Nivison** says :

Dental floss in a tiny dispenser with a clipper to cut it. Because you'll never break it otherwise. Great for an emergency washing line, parcel string, holding up trousers, securing broken bag zips, dodgy door locks and windows, and bags to seat or bunk.

But always remember you will have to cut it at some point, and even your nicely flossed teeth may not do the trick.

## Get involved



[Ashley@allwaystraveller.com](mailto:Ashley@allwaystraveller.com)



[@allwaystraveler](https://twitter.com/allwaystraveler)



[AllWays traveller Facebook](#)

## The International Travel Writers Alliance



The International Travel Writers Alliance is the world's largest association of professional travel writers, editors, broadcasters and photographers.

[www.itwalliance](http://www.itwalliance)